WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No. 232 — With which is incorporated The International Socialist Review for Australasia. — SYDNEY: OCTOBER 3, 1914 — Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney, for transmission by post as a Newspaper. — PRICE, ONE PENNY.

The Passing Show.

The causes of war are generally economic.

All warmongers are rogues and thieves.

Plunder is the main object of the rich.

After a war the working-class counts its losses—the loafing class counts its profits.

There is no enthusiasm for war amongst Socialists, nor anywhere where they have the ear of the workers.

Comrade Thompson is still in Goodna Asylum, Brisbane. When he heard of the mad European war, and the speeches of Queensland's Jingo Labor members, he said sarcastically: "And they put ME in Goodna!"

The workers are robbed and starved to death in peace times. In war they are given a quick despatch from their misery.

Provision is promised for the widows of those who are killed while slave-slaughtering. The widows of those who get killed while producing wealth are left to starve. Billy Holman or Billy Hughes might explain how this happens to be under Labor Government.

The capitalist papers are all prophesying a German republic after the war. But whether or not Germany remains a monarchy or becomes a republic will matter little as long as the capitalists control. As long as capitalism lasts the workers will be slaves and food for cannon.

On the Tuesday before the war sixty-thousand Socialists in Berlin in twenty-seven meetings, protested vigorously against the war. Meanwhile, a million boneheads were singing patriotic songs, hooraying the Kaiser, and clamoring for war. Yet some people are asking why the Socialists didn't prevent the war.

A good story was brought to the office last week by Artist Zif. Two members of the Mug family met. One was in uniform and bound to the bullet-stoppers' picnic in Europe. The other one asked in surprise what he was going to fight for? "Why, what d'ye think I'm going to fight for?" asked the warrior. "For Home Rule, of course. D'ye think I'm going to fight for the red, white an' blue?"

German competition for the world's markets was very severe before the war on the master-class of other nations. The latter are saying, "Now is our chance to capture their trade," while the workers are shooting each other.

When the master-class want war, the Cons. and the Labs. unite. All party differences are sunk by Fisher and Cook in a united effort to get the workers to fight for the bandits of Europe. Their party differences are only a sham to fool the ignorant.

A crisis is confronting all Socialist papers owing to the war. Paper and other materials are becoming unobtainable at any price. London "Justice" is reduced to four pages; New York "Daily Call" is in desperate circumstances; Buffalo "Socialist" and "The Coming Nation" have gone under, and "Cotton's Weekly" is looking forward to early extinction. We ourselves could unfold a doleful tale of increasing difficulties, but what's the use?

The capitalist dailies of Sydney are gleefully chronicling the capture of German possessions in New Guinea and Africa. They have visions of immense wealth being poured into the lap of the idlers from the labor of black slaves in those countries, who die at the rate of 40 per cent. after their first year's service of the white man.

The capitalist papers are shouting for the blood of the German workers and are raving about patriotism and the flag. To infuriate boneheads, they are telling gruesome stories of German atrocities, as



The Man Behind the Gun.

though such horrors were foreign to "civilized warfare." But all armies are alike in this—they all contain good and bad men, with perhaps a preponderance of the bad. Wellington said soldiers were "the scum of the earth," and he adopted drastic measures to keep them within bounds.

In the South African war nameless atrocities were committed, and Australian officers were court-martialled and shot for perpetrating some of them. While our papers are telling tales of German brutality German papers are returning the compliment. No doubt both sides are telling some—though not all—of the truth.

The God of the Christian is said to be a God of Love, yet when a fight is on, and the Christians have murder on hand, with all kinds of hatred and malice thrown in, the first thing they do is to invoke God's help.

The wheat-growing cocky and his Sydney agent are furious because the N.S.W. Labor Government has collared the supply of wheat to prevent prices being pushed up to famine limits. The gentry who are so wroth don't see what the move is for. If prices were allowed to go up out of the wage-slaves' reach, there would be a revolt and the whole system would either be smashed or a supreme attempt would have to be made to raise wages higher than the average labor-skinner desires. The Government is the executive committee of the capitalist class, and as such it has to keep the capitalist system going. It would never do for the committee to allow a section of the capitalist class to stop the machinery.

It will be interesting to see the dividends declared by Krupps, Vicars, Son & Maxim, and other branches of the War Trust after the war. Their profits will be enormous, and their shareholders will be as bloated as a colony of bugs who have just held a feast in the bedroom of a fat politician who has drunk deeply of the cup that cheers. It is an ill war that blows the War Trust no good.

The history of the war can be told in brief. Austria-Hungary fired at Servia, which is a Slav people. Russia, which is Slav, then fired at Austria. Germany then fired at Belgium and France, and Britain fired at Germany. Sounds like a free fight among a mob of drunken bandits, doesn't it?

In 1909 the Trades Unions of Germany, organised on a class basis, numbered 1,832,667. In 1911 they numbered 2,320,968. In 1913 they numbered 2,548,763. The Kaiser and official class saw the rapid spread of class-consciousness amongst the workers, and reckoned that something would have to be done to keep their jobs. On the principle that "desperate diseases necessitate desperate remedies" they plunged into war. Now they are more likely to lose their jobs than they were before.

On Sunday, August 2nd, London Socialists held a gigantic demonstration in Trafalgar Square to protest against the war. The capitalists, however, had already got a move on, and the press was barking furiously for war. Under the circumstances, to protest was futile, to reason impossible.

Wars generate hard times, and hard times help the big capitalists. They squeeze the small holder out of his little farm, the small shop-keeper out of his little store, the small capitalist out of his small capital, the small employer out of his little factory. The big capitalists get hold of a lot of property at lowest prices, and foreclosures on mortgages bring them a regular harvest. But it all adds to discontent, and discontent leads to inquiry and revolt.

N.S.W. Labor Government admits there are 17,000 out of work in the State, and nearly 40,000 out of work half the time. The Government is going to provide some of the workless with calico houses to live in, but it doesn't say what it is going to give them to live on.

"The army from Ulster for foreign service numbers 10,524."—Cable. The Ulsterites were so cleverly duped by Sir Edward Carson that they haven't yet tumbled to the hoax.

Vickers, Son & Maxim, the builders of the lost Australian submarine AE 1, have cabled their regret to the Minister for Defence. The Minister will probably take it as a sort of reminder that the War Trust is still in business and prepared to build another submarine. The Trust is a skilful advertiser.

"The news that Vice-Admiral Patey has occupied Kaiser Wilhelmsland — German New Guinea—without opposition, shows that Australia is not neglecting her duty in the Pacific."—Sydney "Evening News." We used to be told that the duty of the Australian Fleet would only be to defend the Australian coastline. Australia's duty has been expanded—as we always said it would be.

In England a moratorium was recently declared for thirty days. A moratorium means that no one need pay his debts during that time. When Socialists urge that rent, interest, and profit should be stopped to save the lives of the people and relieve the poverty-stricken, they are sneered at. But immediately a war-crisis comes the Socialist proposals are the first thought of and adopted.

General Botha, Prime Minister of South Africa, is about to lead a contingent of South Africans against the Germans. Fourteen years ago General Botha was leading Boers against the British. Funny, isn't it?

Local patriots are enthusiastically promoting the immigration of Belgian widows. They have read that the working-women of Belgium can keep house on a wage of 10s. a week, and feel sure they will make splendid wives for wage-slaves here.

For ways that are dark and for points that are cute, there's none who can beat the Australian plute.

Patriotic Funds are accumulating in the hands of Lord Mayors, but all attempts to use them are skilfully repulsed. Many appeals have been made on behalf of families whose breadwinners have gone to the front, but they are met with the statement that no help can be given until their husbands and fathers have been killed or crippled. Mrs. Mug has to shift for herself until William Mug gives up the ghost. Even then, she will probably have to prove his death and her marriage to him before she will get tuppence.

Of all the news that is coming from the seat of war, no part of it is so true as that which declares that the workers are getting the worst of it.

N.S.W. Labor Government has bought up all the wheat. Like the capitalist governments of Europe it is preparing to feed the people in war-time only. A real Labor government will see that they don't starve in the midst of plenty in time of peace.

Calico houses are being built by the Government of N.S.W. near Sydney for those who are evicted by the landlords for not paying rent. A Labor Government shouldn't allow the landlords to evict.

Barrier "Daily Truth" has been dilating on "Our Chance" during the war with Germany. Capture the enemy's trade, give the mugs plenty of work, and snare the profits, is the Labor organ's message.

Senator Gardiner patriotically declares that he will if necessary, stump the country from town to town to urge the mugs to enrol in the expeditionary forces. Why doesn't the Senator enrol himself? An ounce of example is worth a ton of precept. Is he like Artemus Ward, who was so enthusiastically in favor of the American Civil War, that he offered all his wife's relations for service?

After William Mug kills his German brother Wilhelm in the war, he will get no better food and shelter than he did before. He will return to the same old system of wage-slavery, with the prospect of a future war for his master's amusement and profit. As long as the wage system lasts William will be a slave.

Italy so far has refused to join Germany and Austria in the great murder scheme they have in hand, though her treaties call for such action. The reason is that Socialism is too strong in Italy, and the rulers fear that a revolt would follow an attempt to go to the aid of their allies. The Italian Socialists have distinctly scored in the interests of peace and working class solidarity.

"As it is we cannot disguise from ourselves that, though everybody must eagerly desire the final defeat of Germany, in view of the crime committed in Belgium, nevertheless the success of Russia, which must inevitably follow, will be a misfortune to the civilized world."—H. M. Hyndman ("Justice," Aug. 3, 1914.) There is just one rift in that black cloud. If Germany is defeated, it will probably mean the downfall of feudalism in that country. The landed proprietors are now all-powerful, and the peasants on their estates are keeping Socialism back. They are feudal, Catholic, and reactionary. Upon their exploitation and supporting power the military rule is based. With their masters' political power broken up industrialism will spread, and the peasants will either become wage-slaves in new industries, or wage-slaves who are exploited through giant agricultural machinery. In either case they will become anti-militarist with the development of capitalism, which is industrial and republican. The war of England and France is largely a war of industrialism against persistent feudalism. If industrialism wins as it surely will in the end, Germany will either become a republic, or the monarch will be reduced to the status of a rubber stamp or a wooden image. With France, Germany, Austria industrialised and republicanised, feudalism will be pushed back to Russia, where it will be finally defeated by the forces that are now fighting Kaiserism and feudalism in Germany and Austria. A republican form of government is the political expression of feudalism. A republican form of government will be established in Germany after this war, just as the war of 1870 resulted in the establishment of republicanism in France. With the rise of the capitalist class to supreme power, the working-class revolt will become more insistent.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12247899

The International Socialist

Journal of Revolutionary Socialism and Industrial Unionism.

Owned and controlled by the International Socialists. - -

Subscription: Australia, 4s per year, 1s per quarter Postage added to other countries.

Office: 115 GOULBURN STREET, SYDNEY.

A Blue Mark through this paragraph indicates that YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE WITH NEXT ISSUE.

A Red Mark indicates that your Subscription must be renewed AT ONCE, if you desire the delivery of the paper to continue.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Contributors writing for publication should write in ink, on one side of the paper only, and with a fair space at the sides and between the words and lines. Leave plenty of room for editing.

Write on paper not larger than letter-paper, and thin enough to avoid getting us fined for over-weight.

Mark the package "Press Matter Only," and address it "To the Editor."

Write briefly and clearly, as long and undecipherable articles stand no chance of publication.

Do not send business communications to the Editor, or literary matter to the Manager. To do so only causes confusion and delay.

If your article is not published, do not conclude that it is because it is of no merit, for it may be simply owing to the fact that it is not in accordance with the above rules. Where possible, articles of importance should be type-written.

When Your Subscription is Due.

If No. **233** is on the wrapper of your paper, renew at once as your subscription expires next issue. This is No **232**

War is not an art, and luck alone decides the fate of battles. With two generals, both blockheads, face to face, one of them must inevitably be victorious.—Anatole France.

The Modern Press.

The late Pope, in his dying moments, sadly deplored the vanishing power of the Church. Once, he said, the Church was powerful enough to prevent war, but now such power has vanished.

There is a great truth here, a truth which the present war has made manifest, and which the dying Pope clearly saw. The power of the Church has gone. Once it could prevent or provoke war, now it can do neither. Its power has passed into other hands, and all it can do is to bless the wars that others initiate.

The power that the Churches' spokesmen once possessed is now wielded by the writers of the press. They are the new preachers. Into their hands has passed the means of promoting peace or stirring up strife. The words which the Prophet put into the mouth of Jehovah himself: "I the Lord create peace and make evil," might fittingly now be spoken by a Hearst or a Harmsworth, for they undoubtedly have the power to not only stir up strife, but to "make the wicked for the evil day."

We were told by cable that during his dying moments the late "Prisoner of the Vatican" was repeatedly asked to bless the arms of contending nations, and that he refused and replied: "I bless Peace." He was not asked by his fellow Christian rulers to bless peace, or to endeavor to promote it. No, he was merely desired to bless the wholesale murder promoted by the men of affairs who loom so large in the columns of the press.

The Pope's opposition to the war did not seem to have much influence on the Powers engaged. They went about the business of destroying each other "in the name of God," and with "God's help," with the same enthusiasm as if he had never spoken. A mightier voice than his was proclaiming in "Christian England," "Holy Russia," and "Protestant Germany," the "righteousness of the war," and the "justice of the cause," and Christian was so busy destroying Christian that the Pope's attitude was soon forgotten.

The Press was speaking in "the name of the Lord," and was manufacturing public opinion, and the Press is now the first great power. Mightier than Kaiser or Czar, the Press wields an absolute sceptre. It rules and reigns, and the proud and wealthy, the tyrannical and despotic, as well as the enslaved and exploited acknowledge and feel its power.

Admirers of the Press tell us that the Press is the servant of the public, but it is the public's master. It is the great machine which makes public opinion. It is the channel through which the thoughts of its owners flow into every brain. The thoughts and sentiments concocted for the unthinking are conveyed to their minds by the Press. And how does it utilize its power?

Does the Press use its power in the interests of humanity? Does it educate and enlighten the people? Does it try to destroy prejudice and promote international fraternity? Is it the upholder of justice and the opponent of wrong? Does it uphold the oppressed and oppose the oppressor?

Study the papers around you—Tory, Liberal, or Laborite. What do they offer? They glorify wealth and exploitation; emphasise the sayings of hireling politicians; describe in detail the doings of royal persons and aristocratic parasites; sing the praises of warmongers and War Trust magnates; report the inanities of dignitaries of the Church, which has for centuries helped to keep the people in ignorance and subjection.

The object and aim of the modern Press is to defend and strengthen the existing regime. To do this, there is no meanness which it is not prepared to present as high-minded nobility; no crime which it does not laud as right and proper; and no rascal whom it does not eulogise as a hero. The end justifies the means, and the end is to preserve and strengthen Capitalism with all its wrongs and iniquities.

The Modern Press laughs at consistency. What it supported yesterday it tramples in the dust to-day. What it trampled on yesterday, it raises on high to-day. The trickster whom it kicked so hard last week, because his followers seemed weak, it fawns on and worships to-day, because he seems likely to succeed, and is, moreover, susceptible to the lure of gold. So long as he can be used he is supported, but woe unto him when he becomes useless to the Press and its owners.

The city slum poisons the workers' children in thousands, but the slum owner is a supporter of the Press and is above criticism. The Moloch of War devours hundreds of thousands, but to the Press War is divine. What a glorious career the murdering business holds out to rising manhood! What victories, promotions, and fame is there for those who fight for King and country against cowardly enemies! How proudly ought parents to send their sons to do battle for God and the right! And if they are riddled with shot or torn to fragments by shrapnel, how gloriously they died! What heavenly delight to have sons with legs or arms shot away—what glorious honor! Of course, the cowardlly enemy dies in disgrace. No honor is his, though the Press of his country may falsely assert that he has covered himself with immortal glory.

The workers who toil in unhealthy factories and ill-ventilated mines are fed and mentally gorged by the Press, which soothes them with tales of the freedom they enjoy, and the superiority of conditions in their country compared with those of neighbouring peoples. This is done so that they may remain the willing slaves of the more fortunate ones, who by cunning and class legislation, have the power to dupe and exploit them. They become poorer and poorer, while those for whom they work become more opulent and extravagant. Their home-life is embittered by want, and their children are pressed into the service of insatiable greed. At first the wife takes the husband's place in the slave mill, but soon the children take the place of the wife. Meanwhile, the Press clamors for more wage-slaves. Be fruitful and multiply the number of slaves, and let us have unlimited immigration to supplement the supply afforded by a lagging birthrate.

If the workers become conscious of their degraded condition, and become rebellious, the Press first intimidates and then calls for their destruction. They must be taught to respect law and order. It would never do to allow the rabble to rule. Then the police and military are set upon them, and they are clubbed and bayonetted into subjection.

Occasionally the Press dabbles in social reform—in other countries, and conditions are described in their true light, but the workers must understand that such conditions do not obtain in their country. Their country is perfect! Their homes and standard of comfort are far above all others!

The Press, more than the Church, is now the main stay of capitalist society. It supplies the chloroform which deadens the faculties of the working class. Far more on the Press than on the Police and Army rests the modern class-state, with its economic injustice, its thieves ethics, and its mental disablement and unmanning.

Deliverance from this malevolent and demoralising influence can only be brought about by those who know of its existence. On them devolves the work of replacing the unhealthy fare with the healthy. In other words, they must see that the antidote to the poison is liberally supplied to those who need it. The working-class must be urged to avoid the poisoned spring from which it is now drinking. And as the Press can only be exposed by the Press, self-defence demands that a new Press be established to confront the old. Against the capitalist Press, with its reforms, tariffs, and church news, its glories of war and magnificent butcheries, the workers must sustain a Workers' Press, edited and controlled by workers.

The workers are the majority. They are millions, while the owners of the Capitalist press with their hirelings are only thousands. How comes it then, that every attempt to establish a workers' Press is doomed to languish in difficulty, and often to die in despair? It is because the majority of the workers read the enemy's papers and have their minds crippled. The food which they partake of has the effect of a powerful narcotic. Whoever partakes of the food offered by the daily Press forgets his friends, his family, and himself, and becomes a mental dereliet who drifts hopelessly with the current or fratricidally raises his hands against his class. You can hear them in the trains, trams, hotels, public assemblies, and even in their trade unions, cursing the views of those who are fighting for them, and applauding those of the hostile Press. They are drilled by the enemy for the enemy. They are armed with lies against themselves. When they realise this, and turn from the hostile Press to their own, they will transfer the Power which the Capitalists now wield through their Press, to themselves through their own Press.

The worker who subscribes to the papers for his enemies, while neglecting his own, commits mental suicide. He is false to his class, to his brothers and sisters, and his children. The worker who does this is adopting the surest and most effective means of enslaving himself. The worker who supports his own Press is seizing the readiest weapon for his own deliverance.

Why not support your own Press and transfer power to yourselves? Why not deliver yourselves from the thraldom of your enemy's Press?

The Horrors of War.

"The rank and file of the British Army is almost painfully youthful. It is scarcely out of its teens. The Army which is now crossing to the Continent is an Army of big, pleasant, sunny-natured boys."—Special London Correspondent of Sydney Daily Telegraph.

An article by Mary Boyle O'Reilly in the Portland News of August 14, gives the following description, by an eye witness of the battlefields at Vise and Liege, Belgium:

It conveys some idea of the fiendish work which these "sunny-natured" boys are to engage in when they arrive at the front, and also of the fate that awaits many of them.

"Belgians and Germans lay strewn in indescribable confusion, giving mute evidence that the conflict had been hand to hand—bayonet against sabre. Lying among the corpses, on them, under them, were the horses and the wrecks of automobiles and bicycles. The Belgian cyclist infantry, I surmised, had caught a body of German infantry and cavalry here, in a flank movement.

The silence was ghastly. The battlefield was two days old, and the wounded had all been picked up, or more likely had found relief in death.

All along the route villages were in ruin, fields flattened, forests charred by flame. A sheet of fire and steel seemed to have blazed across the country, and left it a dreary wilderness.

Much farther along I came to the real carnage—the fresh battlefields around Liege. The living, still uncared for, lay among the corpses. Have you ever burned out a huge nest of worms in a tree and seen the mess of their bodies on the ground, seeming to writhe as a whole because of the still wriggling, agonizing forms scattered through it.? Just enlarge that picture to human proportions and add to its silence the horror of groans and cries! That is what I saw on the outskirts of the great battlefields at Liege.

Here a man whose body turned over. Another was jerking spasmodicaly in the death grip. There a bloody arm was raised, and further on a hand beckoned in appeal. Bleeding forms were painfully crawling over the shambles as aimlessly, it seemed, as singed insects. Red Cross surgeons and ambulances were working their way methodically across the field, which under the gloomy drizzle of rain had grown sodden. Its mire and mud puddles were stained red.

As I moved along the slope fearful details began to sink in. Here was a path of wheels in the mass of flesh where artillery, changing its position in mad haste, had torn wheel cuts right through the dead and dying forms! An inarticulate sob issued from a body at my feet. It was maimed, broken and bathed in blood, and the whole face had been crushed in by a horse's hoof. Yet the blind, shapeless thing was still alive! I moved away in a panic of cowardice. But what more could I do?

I pointed out the spot where it lay to one of the Red Cross surgeons, yet I knew he would pass it by for the wounded German near at hand who might still be saved.

MOTHER.

Somebody cried for water, but I had none.

'Water,' the hoarse voice still sobbed as I went on. A young boy, sore wounded in the breast, was deliriously crying, 'Mother, oh my mother!' The anguish in that voice, alone on that awful field, calling on the loved one who would never hear it more, brought burning tears to my eyes when I thought that all feeling had been blunted by horror.

I turned to my motor and took the road back to Holland, in flight.

I have been into a hell—not of fire, but of macerated flesh and gore, of lingering agony and ghastly death.

The flames of hell would seem pure, swift and sweet by comparison."

The above should be brought under the notice of every patriotic mother. It is the reward which the capitalist class gives the working-class for its self-sacrifice and patriotism.

Capitalism has turned the smiling earth into an inferno, a loathsome, blood-stained, famine-stricken horror. Surely it is time that the workers wrested the control of the world's affairs from the hands of blood-thirsty capitalist ghouls! Surely it is time that all thinking men and women rallied to the Socialist standard and adopted as their battle-cry: "Down with Capitalism and War! Let us have International Fraternity and Peace!"

Topical Tattle.

Thus a witness giving evidence before the Foods Commission: "If a merchant bought 100 tons of iron and held it for a rise, that was legitimate business, but if a produce merchant bought 100 tons of wheat and held it for an advance, that was speculation." Let us remind him that people eat bread, the product of wheat, not iron; and the man who would add to the already heavy burden of the poor of a nation in trouble, by making it, through his speculation, still harder for them to obtain their staple article of diet, is a very poor class of worm.

Startling war news! "It is reported that a Hamburg butcher is doing a thriving business, because the floor of his shop is covered with British flags, thus enabling his customers to tread on the Union Jack." If such be true, it would only be on all fours with the silly sentiment that was responsible for the changing of St. Petersburg into Petrograd.

A well known politician remarked that "he was making a sacrifice for his country's sake, inasmuch as he was allowing his son to go to the war"—or words to that effect. How noble! That is Fat's way of doing things. He sacrifices himself by urging—or forcing—William Mug to the war as proxy to stop the bullets, while he stays at home.

Nothing need be wasted in this world. A valuable gas is now made from human excrement; fibre from water hyacinths, and a kind of petrol from prickly pear. After this we will commence to think that our so-called political and wowser curses are blessings in disguise, and that there is something beneficial to be extracted from both, or either. At present, both give off much, but unproductive, gas.

The latest news from Kingdom Kum is that Gabriel and his staff are working overtime recording the sins of the Cabliar in regard to the German atrocities and other war matters. Perhaps the Fanning Island cable wasn't cut, it simply fused when a particularly "hot" piece of news was coming through.

The proposal to tax Public servants 10 p.c. on salary over £200 is a one-sided affair. If the Government consider it equitable to knock off 10 p.c. on £500, and the same on a £200 salary, why did it apply the Income Tax on a sliding scale? Perhaps it isn't policy to be fair always.

Jingoism bursts out in some curious ways. One of these is the idea to establish a female Volunteer Corps. Still an enemy opposed to such a corps of sweet Australian girls mighn't use their rifles much—but there would be a devil of a lot of deserters.

Militarism is bad enough in men, but when it extends to women! For shame, ladies! Put your surplus energy into learning how to cook for, and generally look after your present, or prospective, welfare.

It can safely be said that the politician who howls for wholesale immigration on the one hand, and low wages on the other, has more than his country's interests at heart. The country probably runs a good second, if anywhere at all!

—F.M.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12247900

The Labor Party and the War.

By Lacke Jones.

The elections are over and the Labor Party has scored another "great victory." For three years the Federal Parliament will be bossed by Tweedledum. For three years Tweedledee will suffer the mortificatian of seeing Tweedledum fill all the well paid offices with his pets; appoint committees to enquire into the necessity of more Dreadnoughts, crooked rifles, brown paper boots for the Comic Opera Army, and a thousand and one things, all of which need carefal investigation, interviews with contractors and capitalists, visits to England, and—tut ! who is there vile enough to suggest it, for has not the Labor Party "cleaned politics up," to use a phrase in common use by that Godsent body. Yes ! the unutterable suffering of Tweedledee during the next three years will wring tears from the door-knocker. He will accuse Tweedledum of lack of patriotism (as in fact he did during the elections) and Tweedtedum with tears in his eyes will hotly resent the bold impeachment and will, in support of his claim to greater patriotism than Tweedledee, point to the puttied infants and to our very very ownest own Australian Navy.

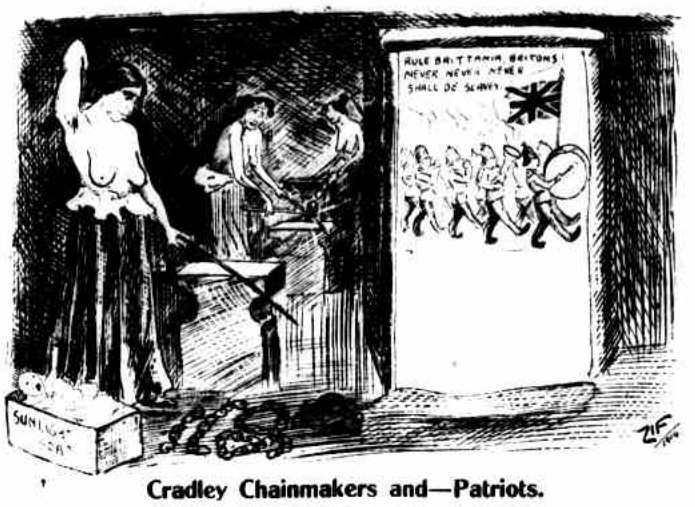
For three years (D.V) an assembly of the choicest knaves to be dlscovered in this hemisphere will talk, and vote, and call divisions, and go into committee, and adjourn, and draw their salary (which rumour has it will be reduced by 50 per cent. during the war —Ahem ?), and forget all about the working-class, except in the event of some measure for further restricting the growing power of organised labor being dictated to the Babbleshop by its real rulers, Plunderem & Co., when no time will be lost in passing "this great question" into law. And after the three years have passed T & T will once more offer themselves as sacrifices to their "country's good" for a miserable £800 per year and perks.

O Glorious patriotism ! What martyrs hast thy name inspired ! What sacrifices have thy devotees made for thee ! What torrents of blood in thy cause have flowed. Behold now the supreme act of devotion of all time : Mr Cook and Mr Fisher stand, with an army of stalwarts, willing and ready to talk, talk, talk, from now on to eternity for only £500 per annum (in advance). Gloria in Excelsis Deo! (in choirs and places where they sing).

God forfend that I should not appreciate the unselfishness of the politicians, but somehow,—owing to an overdose of original sin I suppose,—I am a bit doubtful of the gents. Let us see if there is a good reason for this sceptisim. Perhaps the recent elections will assist us to understand.

It woutd be a waste of time if I attempted to show that the Liberal party stands for the perpetuation of the present system. That is accepted by most people, and in point of fact, to do that party justice, it makes no secret of it, therefore deluding nobody. But with the Labor party things are somewhat diffierent. Here is a party which by its very name claims the allegiance of the workers. And to those of that class who have hitherto given their support to the Labor party I particularly address this article. I will attempt to prove that there is no substantial difference between the Liberal and Labor parties. If this can be done, then there should be no great difficulty in convincing you of the folly of supporting the Labor party any longer.

Now what was the main issue during the election ? At the outset the Labor party made an attempt to labor the principle of preference to unionists. This was to be the great rallying cry at whose sound the walls of Jericho were to fall and Labor was to march triumphant into the comfortable seats of Parliament House. But the Gods declared otherwise and the Labor party found the Ministerial benches through an issue, which circumstances forced upon them; the question of Patriotism. When the war cloud burst over the world the rush for first place in the Jingo ranks began. Cook and Millen made a good attempt at maintaining the lead, which the holding of office had given them, but they counted without their opponents That a Labor man could out-Jingo Jingo they never for a moment suspected. But the party which enslaved the youth of Australia to the military Moloch was not to be beaten with such ease as the Liberals imagined. Time had shown that such scruples as principle adherence to working-class ideas and other foolish shibboleths of crazy demagogues would not deter Labor leaders in the race for the adulation of the vampire class. So Cook and Millen soon discovered that despite the handicap of being out of office Fisher and Hughes quickly outpaced them. We shall see who got the prizes. At first Hughes doubted the powers of his own party and suggested a truce. Said he, 'let each party withdraw the candidate opposing the sitting member and the trick will be done. We can then sink all differences during this great crisis (not a great task) and present the spectacle of a United Australia ready to stand shoulder to shoulder for the good of the Empire Now Cook, whatever his other faults, certainly cannot be accused of possessing an abundance of foresight. He is one of that type of persons who, glancing down the nose when a dewdrop hangs from its point thinks



Cradley Chainmakers and—Patriots.

that a diamond of the first water is there. Consequently Joseph, thinking he had a gem for his party in the war, declined with thanks.

Then the fun began. Fisher and Hughes seeing that the Liberals would not consent to parcelling out the seats amongst the two parties without consulting the "free and independent eletors" set about things in real earnest. From the housetop they blatantly proclaimed the treachery of the Libs. against "Gawd and King and Countree" and, beating their breasts proclaimed their readiness to stand behind the Empire to the "last man and shilling." O beautiful patriotic souls, your virtue shall be rewarded ! The reward was nearer at hand than Fisher and Co. expected, for almost immediately came a cable from that fiery-eyed revolutionist Sir Edward Grey in answer to Fisher's "last man and shilling" harangue. "Bravo Fisher well done." Here in four words were at once the prize for, and the brand of treachery to the working-class. In four words the British plundering class, through its agent Grey, approvad the utterances of Fisher and marked him down for posterity to know. For thirty pieces of silver Judas sold Christ, but the price of Fisher's betrayal of his class was the Premiership of the Commonwealth and a sleek meed of praise from the Philistines. What now of the precious "preference to unionists?" Where had the "great principle" dissapeared to? Had the Germans annexed it or had the "unionist" suddenly been wiped off the map by a stroke of political legerdemain ?

No kind friend the riddle is much simpler than that propounded by the Sphinx. Most people are accquainted with the law in physics of the "line of least resistence."

It was just a judicious application of this law which was responsible for the sudden exit of "preference to unionists." There was the Premiership and the empty benches of the Federal gas-works and the problem presented itself to Fisher and Co. "how are we to get there." Naturally taking the line of least resistance was the most expeditious method. This course had served well in the past and could equally be relied upon at the present juncture. "True we had promised to fight the elections upon "preference" but, to paraphrase the proverb; "Fisher proposes but Grey disposes" hence our altered tactics. If the capitalists were your enemies yesterday they are your warmest friends to-day for look at the cable of Edward Grey to our own silver-haired, venerable, and saintly Andrew. Your business to-day is not to demand a greater share in the products of your labor, but to take your share in the holy work of disembowelling German working-men. We would ask you to forget the stealthy Jap just now in face of a greater danger for undoubtedly the object of the Germans can be no other than the capture of Australia. Their rapid descent upon Paris proves this conclusively and had not the Fisher Government been wise enough to "create" a navy, even if it is out of date, the German hosts would have ravaged the country weeks ago. It is true that certain people claim that the workers have nothing to fight for, but that is mere moonshine. If the Germans were to succeed in the present war think what it would mean to you. Black-bread, horseflesh, sausages, sauerkraut and lager beer would be forced upon you at the point of the landlady's carving-knife, with a German band playing "Der Wacht Am Rhine," from six in the morning to sunset. Anybody refusing to eat these things would be guilty of "Lese Majeste" and would therefore be liable to six years detention in the nearest gaol. Further ! it would be incumbent on everyone (male sex) to cultivate a "Kaiser moustache' and this would throw a number of the Barbers' Union out of work for whereas ii is too much trouble for the average cleanshaven man to shave himself in the present style, given moustaches a la Kaiser the labor involved would be so slight that few men would require the services of a barber.

Another thing that is of the utmost importance to a young and prosperous country like Australia : It is generally admitted by most observers and especially those who have travelled in Germany that one of the understandings amongst the German official caste is, that every nation subdued by the Germans should be compelled to use nothing but German yeast in the baking of bread. Only those engaged in bread-making can appreciate the awful consequences that would ensue to this free and enlightened nation should Germany succeed in imposing this insidious "balm" upon our baking industry.

It is therefore the duty of the whole of the people in Australia (since they all eat bread) to return the Labor Party as the only sure and permanent safeguard against the diabolical designs of German Jackbootery. Think of your national honor, pride, and prestige, and fight to the "last man and shilling" against the iniquitious imposition of German yeast, lager-beer and sauerkraut, for God is on our side in this just and noble war. We admit that the capitalists, as a rule cause wars, but this case is an exception to the rule and the honor of the Empire is at stake.

But enough ! I could continue thus for a few pages. This is not a quotation from a Labor member's speech, but it is the impression on my mind resulting from listening to one. It was the day I had to choose betwixt listening to the young hopeful next door, (who is in the "Gorsave" stage of pianoforte culture,) soothing her patriotic young soul on a German piano and the labor candidate for Cook electorate. I chose the latter. In future I shall follow the path of rectitude and content myself with young Australia's industry in music. Anyhow I don't remember the perfervid oration in detail, but what with it and the press reports of other speeches by persons of the same kidney I cannot do better than offer the above as an attempt of the position taken up by the Labor Party during election.

So the reason for dropping the "preference" cry is manifest. The line of least resistence lay around the Trades Hall, but not far enough away to miss the patriots there, yet quite far enough to rope in a goodly number of patriotic geese. These with the Trades Hall ganders served the purpose admirably: Perhaps the resultant gosling will swallow all the meal and refuse to lay eggs in its turn.

Now in virtue of all of this I ask you; Is the Labor Party one whit different from the Liberal Party in the things that matter to you Mr. Worker? The only reason for the existence of a Labor Party is, or should be, to fight the battles of the worker on the political field. This in truth is what is claimed for the Labor Party, but what are the real facts of the case ? The Labor Party, has once again proved that when Blood and Guts pull the the string, it, marionette like, dances as nimbly as ever the Liberal Party did. It has proved the truth of the Socialist dictum : That it is the willing and pliant tool of capitalist interests ready at any moment to sell the workers into slavery of any kind, Industrial Military or Religious, for the plums of office. Could anything testify more eloquently to this than the display of Jingoism with which it won the elections, beating the Liberals at their own game, and crowning the lot by the applause of Moneybags per Sir E. Grey. If there is so little difference between the two parties that Hughes can ask for a coalition over a war which certainly the worker, whom that gentleman claims to represent, did not have any hand in making ; if the difference is so minute that the London Times the chief organ of Capital could remark over the 1913 election that no matter which party was returned Imperial interests were equally safeguarded, where, I ask, is the necessity for a Labor Party! Why not put up with the Liberals for, whilst you support Labor you virtually support the Liberals inasmuch as the two parties are like one another as they possibly could be, consistent with different names.

The Labor Party has thrown in the scales with the Chauvinists of Europe. On the other side are the International Socialists who have one and all declared against war, and some have paid the penalty with their lives. Compare the sublime Jaures, the heroic Liebknecht, the divine Rosa Ruxemberg, with the poltroons of the Labor Party snugly esconsed in the upholstery of Parliament, sheltering behind the wings of the Capitalist warmongers and feeding the guns of Krupps, Cruesot Vicars Son and Maxim with the workink class, then consider if the world would not be better with the whole tribe of Cook, Fisher, Hughes & Co. where Jaures is. The scales are heavily down on the Labor Party's side, but if we Socialists can do any thing worthy of doing the time will come when Judas will turn in his grave sooner than have his name coupled with them.

It is therefore the duty of every Socialist to fight the Labor Party wherever they meet it, in the knowledge that when it is vanquished the greatest bulwark of Capitalism will have been destroyed and the conquest of he world by the workers will be rendered to much the easier by the removal of a false friend. Better the wolf with his bare fangs than in sheep's clothing, and better an out and out Capitalist party revealing itself in true terms of the class struggle, than a miserable go-between party of Chauvinist-cum-Wowser mediocrities. With the Labor Party out of the way, and a clear field the opposing forces of Capital and Labor will soon settle the question of who is to be master. There can only be one issue—the triumph of the the world's working-class and with that accomplished, war with its brutality and swineishness will vanish to-gether with disease, want, crime and ignorance and the human race can then sing with the poet.

"Glory to man in the Highest
For Man is the Master of All."

THE SIXTH CRAFT UNION MEETING.

For the "International Socialist."

(By K. N. Pepper.)

Labor Party Jingo:
Mr. Chairman, it's with pleasure
I accept this early chance
To propose this resolution to the lodge;
That to save our lives and treasure,
When our foreign foes advance,
We should now adopt the Amazonian dodge.

Just a little explanation
May be needful to a few
Who are strangers to the legend of the Greeks,
That a warlike, female nation
Single Taxer:
Oh! relate us something new!
Labour Party Jingo:
Well, the prison kept you sober seven weeks! (Laughter.)
Now, the Grecian legend stated
That the amazons were "She's,"
Who, like Rider Haggard's "She," would be obeyed,
And unnaturally hated
All the ancient, warlike "he's,"
And in battle drew the long-bow undismayed!

For proficiency in battle
They destroyed each dexter breast,
And repelled the hordes of fierce invading males—
Single Taxer:
Oh, what idiotic prattle!
Give your feeble brain a rest,
And relate no stupid Dago fairy tales!

Who believes a dirty Dago
When of amazons he blows?
Such a stupid ignoramus makes me fret.
Why a chump from Michelago
Or a jackarooster knows
That the Amazon's a river in Thibet!
(Derisive laughter.)

P.L.L. Jingo:
Well, those Amazonian ladies
All destroyed their virgin breast
To repel the male invaders from their shores;
And I'm moving—
Single Taxer:
Move to Hades!!
You're a jingoistic pest!
Chairman:
That the member will keep order I implore!

I remind the heated member
He has often gone too far
In employing violent language now in vogue;
I entreat him to remember
He is not an M.H.R.
First Socialist:
Those initials stand for Members Hamit of Rogues (Applause.)

P.L.L. Jingo:
I am moving, I was saying,
That our Austral women fair
Should be tutored to assist in the defence
Single Taxer:
I can hear a donkey braying'
P.L.L. Jingo:
Yes! It's sitting on your chair!!
(Laughter.)
We should tutor girls regardless of expense!

They should learn to use a rifle
Where the wattle blossoms wave,
And the merry kookaburra laughs in scorn;
They should reckon it a trifle
To enjoy a soldier's grave
Till the trumpet sounds on Resurrection morn!

We have given women freedom
And facilities to vote!
We conferred on them the franchise we enjoy!
And if ever we should need 'em
To protect our men of note,
We should give each girl a rifle—
Second Socialist.
And a boy!! (Loud laughter.)

Liberal Party Jingo:
Sir, I gladly rise to second
What my comrade has proposed
It is patriotic, sensible, and right
That our women should be reckoned
With our conscripts when opposed
To the foreigners whom they will have to fight!

Ev'ry working man should favor
And support the motion moved
(And the mover should receive our hearty thanks),
Tho' the motion seems to savor
Of conscription, he has proved
That it coincides with Labor Party planks!

(To be Continued.)

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12247901



The People's Only Way of Escape.

WORK BOYS WORK AND BE CONTENTED

O, the Mugs so bully are
Now the country is at war,
And we have a Labor Government again.
They're as happy as can be
From all care and sorrow free,
So they sing an old craft union refrain.

Chorus:
Work, boys! Work, and be contented,
As long as you've enough to buy a meal;
For the Boss you may rely
Will be wealthy bye and bye
If you only put your shoulder to the wheel.

O, the preachers rant and rave
Of the sinners that they save,
And the Labor Politicians spout and skite
But the bosses all the time
Grab the profits as they climb
All together an old chorus that is trite.

Chorus:
When the jobs are hard to get,
And poor William is beset
By the rent-fiend coming weekly to his door,
Does he give up in despair?
Not a bit of it, for there's
You may hear him as he lustily doth roar.

Chorus:
Now the war is at its height,
And he's in a sorry plight,
On the half-time job with prices soaring high,
Is he discontented, no?
He is quite contented so;
If you ask him he will probably reply

Chorus:
Work, boys! work, and be contented,
Though you haven't got enough to buy a meal,
For the Boss you may rely
Will be wealthy bye and bye
If you only keep your shoulder to the wheel

A.S.P. News & Notes.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.
General Secretary: J. W. ROCHE.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL.

The Administrative Council will meet at Headquarters on Sat. Oct. 3. All delegates are urged to attend.

J. W. ROCHE.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

The usual weekly social and dance was held in our hall on Friday evening and was well attended. On Saturday night a meeting was held in Bathurst-St. It has been a long time since any Socialist meeting was held in that particular street and there was a good attendance. A few interjectors helped to liven proceedings but the sympathies of the audience were not with the interjectors. Sunday afternoon saw a good muster of the revolutionary forces in the Domain. A large crowd gathered round the tree of knowledge ar rather the stump thereof and many patriotic souls were grieved at the disloyal utterances of the speakers. One elderly individual was in fact so grieved that he mounted the stump himself and delivered a patriotic oration. Socialists are never bashful of criticism and we always invite our patriotic friends to say their say, if they are not too long in saying it. Meetings were held in Market and Park-Sts., during the evening.

The lecturer in our hall on Sunday evening was Mr. J. L. Swann of the Freedom League. The hall was taxed to the limit of its seating capacity to hold the audience which listened to his address on "The Australian Defence Act and its meaning." Mr. Swann proved his intimate knowledge of the workings of this strange piece of legislation framed by a government with pretensions to working-class representation. He answered many questions and dealt with the subject in an able manner generally.

Mr. J. C. Eidridge of the State Labor Branch will lecture in the hall on Sunday evening next (Oct. 4.) Time 8 p.m. Place 369 Pitt-St., off Liverpool St. Comrades are reminded that the following future dates have been arranged: Oct. 11. Mr. H. Balkin on "Sex Hygiene," Oct. 25. Professor Atkin son of Sydney University "The Economics of Karl Marx."

A picnic will be held at BRONTE on 8 hour day. Members and friends meet in hall at 8.30 a.m. A benefit social in aid of Comrade L. Jones will be held in the Manchester Unity Hall on that night. Remember the Social on Friday evening next.

D. H. Acting Sec.

BRISBANE.

Labor member Fihelly addressed a meeting in Russel-street Hall on "Defence." All the usual arguments were dished up for our edification. War was an abomination, and no one could speak in its defence. It was a stain on civilisation. There were bullies among nations, and we must prepare to defend ourselves. The Australian democracy was the most advanced in all the world, and its citizen army was a force that would defend that democracy and all that it meant for the workers. Foreign armies were used in Capitalist interests, but our (?) army was too near the people to be used against them. Because of the unpreparedness Korea was invaded by Japanese, and her people put to tortures unimaginable. He believed Japan would do the same to Australia some day, so we must get ready to defend our (?) country. Discipline was an excellent thing for our young men and military training developed discipline. Not only was such training good morally, but it effected a marked improvement physically. Many questions were asked, to all of which Mr. Fihelly answered in the familiar strain that we should enter the labor movement and mould it to our desires. In the opinion of our members, Mr. Fihelly is a real good "politician." Nuff sed.

All comrades in and about Brisbane are asked to rally around the Branch and aid in the propaganda work which now devolves on a few. We are holding a joint picnic shortly, along with the Russian, Polish, and Jewish Associations.

GORDON BROWN, Sec.,
Box 10, South Brisbane.

The "Socialist" (Melbourne) surely exaggerates the power and influence of this paper when it says that the "good word" spoken by it of ex-Senator Rae after his defeat, "would probably have prevented Rae from being outed by the Jingoes and cockroach capitalists of the party, had it been said before the election. The Socialist professes to be puzzled to comprehend why we "admired" him while we left him to the enemy. But we never "admired" Rae. In saying that he proved himself the brainiest and most uncompromising of the Labor party's representatives, we paid him only a doubtful compliment. It was saying only that he was the best of a bad lot. We weren't in any doubt about Rae's being merely a laborite politician who did what he did in the Senate because he misjudged the strength of the militarist party outside whose votes he was angling for. Rae fought for conscription—that was enough to disillusion anyone who believed much in his intelligence. So far as we know he still believes in it. So does Joe Cook, so what difference is there between them to induce us to champion Rae against Cook? Rae attacked the clauses in the Act, which were dangerous to unionists, in the Senate, but he exerted himself outside to bolster up its main principles. We still say that no man of strong, sincere views can live in the Labor party, but Arthur Rae can. He is just now up for selection in the Canterbury Labor League of N.S.W. for the vacancy in that electorate.

In Sydney, as in other cities, horses are being rapidly superseded by motor cars and electric trams. In the near future it is probable that horses will be almost entirely superseded by these machines, and their services being no longer required, all but a few will die out. They will no longer be bred to the same extent as formerly. No one will blame the horses for allowing themselves to be exterminated, because they haven't sufficient intelligence to understand what is being done, and they will submit tamely to the extinction of the greater number of their kind. But what can we say when "intelligent" workers are being superseded and exterminated by machinery? What can we say when they submit as tamely as the unintelligent horses do? What can we say when—there being too many of them—they rush to war to be killed off by machine guns in thousands? Do they show much more intelligence than the horses.

In case you doubt what the foregoing paragraph contains, note this from the "Daily Mail Year Book":—

"It is a very notable fact that, although the number of factories and their value have vastly increased in the United Kingdom, there is an absolute decrease in the number of men and women employed in those factories. . . . This is doubtless due to the displacement of hand labor by machinery."

A SURPRISE PACKET.

Send us a postal note or penny stamps to the value of 1s. and we will mail you two pamphlets by Joseph McCabe—"The Bible in State Schools" and "The Church and the People"; also a set of postcards with Karl Liebknecht's portrait, anti-militarist cartoons, and anti-militarist songs printed on the back.

PRESS AND MAINTENANCE FUND

Sievers 1s., J. W. Roche 1s.

SUBS RECEIVED.

A. Hoffman 4s, Easterabb 6s., J. W. Roche 2s., R. Grechanoff 2s. 6d., W. Stevenson 4s, H. Vetterliem 1s, Max Braund 1s,. C. Merton 2s.

READ THE "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST"

Because it is written by the workers for the workers. Its columns are filled with articles that affect the welfare of the working class the world over.

The "International Socialist" exists to constantly and fearlessly expose the robbery of labor and the social shams of the present system.

In its columns the canting humbug of the churches is satirised.

The tricks of deceitful politicians are exposed.

The hypocrisy of Labor leaders who lie in wait for a chance to climb on the backs of the workers to place and power, is denounced.

In its columns will be found the truth regarding the cause of social evils and the futility of political tinkering.

It carries a message of hope and courage to the dark places where labor is exploited.

It brings greetings and encouragement from comrades in other lands to all who are engaged in the great battle for the economic freedom of the working class.

It stands for the international solidarity of the working class, and preaches the overthrow of nationalism, racial hatred, bogus patriotism, and capitalism.

It is a real live, revolutionary paper for slaves who desire freedom. It will give you a new outlook, life, hope, and vitality.

The "International Socialist" is a factor in the greatest movement of all time—the Socialist movement, and is posted to any address in Australia for 1s. per quarter, 2s. per half year, or 4s. per year.

Address all communications to the Managing-Editor, and make all Money Orders, etc., payable to him.

Published weekly at 115 Goulburn-st., Sydney, N.S.W.

Australasian Socialist Party.

Principles and Policy.

1. Objective.

The Social ownership with Democratic control of the means of production, distribution, and exchange.

2. Statement of Principles.

The present form of Society rests on private ownership of the land and the machinery (tools) of production.

The owners of most of the land and machinery of production constitute what is economically known as the capitalist class. Hence the use of the term, "The capitalist form of society."

This form of ownership divides society in all countries into two distinct and opposing classes the capitalist class and the working class.

The working class produces all the wealth that sustains society, while it is held in complete economic and industrial subjection to the capitalist class, which lives on the wealth produced by the working class.

To enable the working class to wage the class war, it must be fully conscious of the wrongs inflicted upon the workers by the capitalist class; and it must organise industrially to voice its wrongs and assert its claims. Then it will be prepared for political action to overthrow the usurping class and to abolish classes for ever.

The deaths by starvation, the millions of unemployed, the excessive toil for bare subsistence, the poverty, crime and consequent misery, are all the direct outcome of domination by the ruling class. That class must go.

The Australasian Socialist Party demands common ownership of all agencies of wealth production by the people themselves and the control of all industrial affairs on the basis of social equality.

The workers of Australasia must, without delay, take up their position along with the organised, class-conscious workers of all other countries. There is no escape from the thraldom of capitalism short of its complete overthrow, and this can only be achieved by the class-conscious industrial and political organisation of the working class.

The Australasian Socialist Party, therefore, calls upon all workers to forthwith identify themselves with the existing A.S.P. Branches in their respective States, and to work unceasingly for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system, and for the emancipation of their class from wage slavery.

3. Guiding Rule.

The Australasian Socialist Party shall on all political and industrial legislation make the answer to this question its guiding rule of conduct: Will the proposal advance the interests of the working class and aid the workers in their class struggle against capitalism? If it will, the Australasian Socialist Party is for it; if it will not, the Australasian Socialst Party is absolutely opposed to it.

4. As to Palliatives.

Whereas the advocacy of political palliatives (so-called) tends to obscure the working class objective of emancipation from wage slavery, and thus causes the workers to expend time and effort to little purpose; and

Whereas political palliatives (so-called) as adopted by legislatures have rarely proved efficacious, and have usually created the need for further legislative restrictions, and therefore kept working class action circular instead of straight; and

Whereas political palliatives even if desirable are best obtained by educating and organising for basic ends, inasmuch as sops have ever been conceded when something more fundamental is the demand: be it

Resolved that the Australasian Socialist Party declares against a programme of palliatives, and urges the workers to concentrate their energies upon abolishing capitalism by perfecting their industrial organisations and only using the ballot for Socialist propaganda.

5. As to Political Action.

No member of the A.S.P. shall stand as other than the candidate of the A.S.P., or support other than the candidate of a Revolutionary Socialist Party for Parliamentary or municipal office. A Revolutionary Socialist Party shall be any party which bases its Propaganda on the recognition of the class struggle, and declares for the collective ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and has no programmes of Palliatives.

No member or branch of the A.S.P. shall enter into any alliance temporary or permanent with any other than a Revolutionary Socialist Party. Socialist candidates shall be selected by the branches concerned, and where no branch exists by the Administrative Council, and before running be endorsed by the National Executive, to which the candidate shall pledge himself to advocate and support the principles and policy of the A.S.P.

Before entering upon a compaign a candidate shall hand to his Branch a written resignation to be read in the event of him swerving from the A.S.P. Policy.

A candidate must be a member of the A.S.P. and shall also have been for twelve months a member of the A.S.P. or another organisation affiliated with the International Socialist Bureau.

6. As to Unionism.

The A.S.P. aims and declares for Industrial Unionism as against craft or sectional unionism, for whereas the specialisation of the processes of production, the invention of machinery, and the concentration of ownership into fewer and fewer hands, makes craft unionism unable to cope with this economic development, and ever growing power of the employing class, because it is a relic of a lower stage in the evolution of captalist production, i.e., the organised labor expressions of lower forms of tools, the A.S.P. therefore declares that to-day this organisation has outlived its usefulness, and has created crafts and sections amongst the working class in the same industry, and this contradiction in industrial development allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set in the same industry, and industry against industry, thereby defeating one another when waging war against the encroachments of the capitalist class, with their superior and higher developed organisations. And in view of this economic development the working class must organise in such a manner as will correspond to the development of the tools of production. This, then, makes it imperative that industrial organisation on right lines must be so constituted that all but technical distinctions between crafts and callings must be eliminated, and sectionalism abolished. The A.S.P. therefore affirms that industrial unionism in contradistinction to craft unionism is that form of organisation which is based upon the recognition of the class struggle, and through which all its members in one industry or in all industries, if necessary, can act as a unit and adopt such methods by which the might and power of the working class can be best exercised and demonstrated.

The A.S.P. affirms its pronounced and mature conviction that Compulsory Arbitration, Wages Boards, the New Protection, and the like, as manifested in slightly-differing enactments in the Australian States and New Zealand, have not been advantageous to the working class.

7. As to Compensation.

The Australasian Socialist Party vehemently protests against the working class being misled by the Labor or other parties into the belief that it is possible to socialize the instruments of production by a gigantic scheme of 'buying out,' or compensation to the possessing class, and warns the workers against endorsing such a utopian, immoral, and impracticable plan.

8. As to Militarism.

The A.S.P. declares itself uncompromisingly hostile to all forms of armaments and militarism, recognising that whilst the present class State exists the armed forces will be used to buttress up capitalism, and to hold down the workers. The A.S.P. further recognises that the energies of the working class can be better utilised in building up their industrial and political organizations, which shall finally render war impossible, as such organizations by international affiliation and alliances between the working classes of all nations are at present the chief guarantee of the peace of the world.

9. As to Schools.

In declaring the need for Socialist Schools, the A.S.P. urges that same be established whenever and wherever the circumstances permit.

10. As to Historical Materialism.

The A.S.P. pledges itself to the materialistic interpretation of history, which asserts that the transition from one system of society to another, as in the past, from primitive communism to chattel slavery, from chattel slaver to feudalism, and from feudalism to the present Capitalist State, has been the result of new and improved methods of production, and the time has now arrived when the present scientific tools of production, by being socially owned, would make possible the establishment of the Socialist Republic.

11. As to Education.

The A.S.P. declares for and supports the principle of Secular Education in State Schools; and against subsidising denominational schools; and further holds that as religion is entirely a personal matter, and as State schools are composed of scholars of different religious beliefs, the introduction of religious teaching can only result in fostering religious bigotry, and is a waste of valuable time.

TO SMART YOUNG MEN. We have vacancies for any number of smart and brainy young men in the ranks of the militant Socialism. Those desiring to qualify for oratorical positions should communicate with the Secretary of the nearest branch.

THE "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST."

A paper for those who dare to think.

An organ for the fearless, intellectual element in this country.

A publication that recognises no boundary line between the workers of different countries.

A paper for grown-up men and women who are free from national and racial prejudices.

The "International Socialist" compels you to think and enables you to make others think.

Try it on your friends for one quarter.

Printed and published by William Robert Winspear, at 115 Goulburn-St., Sydney, for the Sydney Branch of the Australasian Socialist Party.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12247902